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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 11/16/01 1:04pm

"simply telling a defendant to go forth and sin no more does little or nothing to address the unfair advantage it has already gained."

Hello,

I am the system administrator for Transamerica Reinsurance. I am extremely computer literate and knowledgeable. I have followed the Microsoft case with great interest, and more then a little frustration, over the years.

While I don't have the legal background to say if Microsoft has violated laws, I do have the technical background to know that Microsoft practices have definitely been detrimental to the public (and corporate) world. Many, far to many for it not to be deliberate, competing products have been stamped out by the very simple strategy of forcibly installing the MS version with the operating system, and by making the operating system opaque enough to ensure that the competing tools can not be as reliable as the MS version.

This has had the side effect of making the MS Operating System itself become extremely bloated, forcing consumers to continually purchase system upgrades to maintain the same level of performance. This may be good for the system vendors, but most certainly has NOT been good for the system consumers.

You might say that is the price of progress, however competing products, such as Linux, have been growing their level of sophistication faster then MS, without anywhere near the level of associated bloat.

I believe that the consumers, and in fact, MS itself, would be better served by not allowing MS to integrate so much into the OS, and instead be forced to compete on a level playing field with competitors on the peripheral items, much as they do with the office suite. I am so convinced of this in fact, that I am amazed MS hasn't done it on their own - it would be a potential tremendous money maker for them, with their great marketing capabilities.

Please, don't rush into an agreement which clearly will not address the very harmful practices MS routinely engages in.

Thank you
Scott Lander

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